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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A stand-alone, dedicated function device for making exact copies of long-term memory devices comprising:
 - an interface for connecting to a storage device (source);
 - one or more interfaces for connecting to the storage device(s) (destination);
 - wherein the interfaces are electronically isolated from each other through the use of separate interface circuitry for each interface;
 - a user controllable switch that, when actuated by a user, causes the device to commence a copy;
 - and a control circuit coupled to the interface (source) and the interface(s) (destination), the control circuit issuing commands to: compare the size of the source device to the size of a destination device and communicate result to a user, open hidden areas on the source device, make an exact copy of the storage device connected to the interface (source), read and compare data on the source and destination devices and communicate result to a user, restore the source drive to its original condition,
 - wherein the copying device is operating system independent.

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2. (cancelled).
3. (cancelled).
4. (currently amended) The copying device of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein a user controllable switch is connected to the control circuit to interrupt the verification procedure.
5. The copying device of claim 1, wherein the interface is an integrated device electronics (IDE) interface for a disk drive.
6. (cancelled).
7. (currently amended) The copying device of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein the hidden area the control circuit removes or modifies is a Host Protected Area (HPA) ~~from a source device and restores the HPA after a copy process is~~ complete.
8. (currently amended) The copying device of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein the hidden area the control circuit removes or modifies is Device Configuration Overlay settings (DCO) ~~from a source device and restores the DCO after a copy~~ process is complete.

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9. (currently amended) The copying device of claim 1, wherein the control circuit sets the ~~Host Protected Area on~~ size of a copied device to the size of a source device.

10. The copying device of claim 1, further comprising: one or more additional interfaces for connecting to display and/or output devices, to produce a report.

11. The copying device of claim 1, wherein the control circuit writes a standard bit pattern on a copy device to indicate unreadable data on the source device.

12. The copying device of claim 1, further including light emitting diodes (LEDs) coupled to the control circuit and configured to transmit status information relating to the status of the copying device.

13. The copying device of claim 1, wherein the control circuit scans the source device for one or more specific bit patterns, during the copy procedure.

14. The copying device of claim 13, further including: a user controllable switch is connected to the control circuit to enable scanning functions

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only.

15. The copying device of claim 13, further including: one or more additional interfaces for connecting to input devices, to receive specific bit patterns to scan.

16. The copying device of claim 1, further comprising: a casing configured to contain the control circuit and the interface, the user controllable switch being mounted on the casing, the casing being of a size that is portable by the user.

17. (cancelled)

18. The copying device of claim 16, further comprising: cables emanating from the casing and connected to the interfaces, the cables being configured to connect to long-term memory devices.

19. The copying device of claim 18, wherein the cables are Integrated Device Electronics (IDE) cables.

20. The copying device of claim 1, further comprising: a power supply configured to supply power to the control circuit.

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21. The device of claim 20, further comprising: drive power cords emanating from the casing and configured to supply power from the power supply to the long-term memory components.

22. (currently amended) A stand-alone, dedicated function copying device comprising:

means for interfacing with a source drive,

wherein the source device is protected from accidental state changes;

means for interfacing with one or more destination devices;

means initiating the copying procedure; and

means for comparing the size of the source device to the size of a destination device and communicating result to a user;

means for opening hidden areas on the source device;

means for making an exact copy;

means for reading and comparing the data on the source and destination devices and communicating result to a user;

means for restoring the source device to its original condition,

wherein the copy device is operating system independent.

23. (cancelled).

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24. (cancelled).

25. The copying device of 22, further comprising: means for scanning for one or more specific bit patterns.

26. The copying device of 22, further comprising: means for indicating areas on a source device that were unreadable.

27. The copying device of 1, wherein the source and destination devices have different interfaces.